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hawk valley west of Albany, between the Catskill (Helderberg) and the Adirondack Mountains has made communication easy between the harbor of New York and the prairies of the west. The contrast between the Hudson and the Potomac in this respect is very striking. The gorge of the Highlands is therefore a path of most active traffic, by rail (N. Y. Central R.R. on the east bank, West Shore R.R. on the west bank) as well as by boat; and New York is for this reason the commercial metropolis of the United States.

GAUSSBERG IN THE ANTARCTIC.

This picture of the isolated mountain discovered by the German Antarctic Expedition at the northern edge of the new land found by the party is selected from the illustrations accompanying Dr. Drygalski's report published in the *Zeitschrift* of the Berlin Geographical Society (No. 1, 1904). The land on which it stands was discovered on Feb. 21, 1902, and the next day the exploring vessel *Gauss* was frozen in the ice about forty-five miles north of the coast. The party were imprisoned here for nearly a year until Feb. 8, 1903, their position being Latitude 66° 30' S., Longitude 90° E.

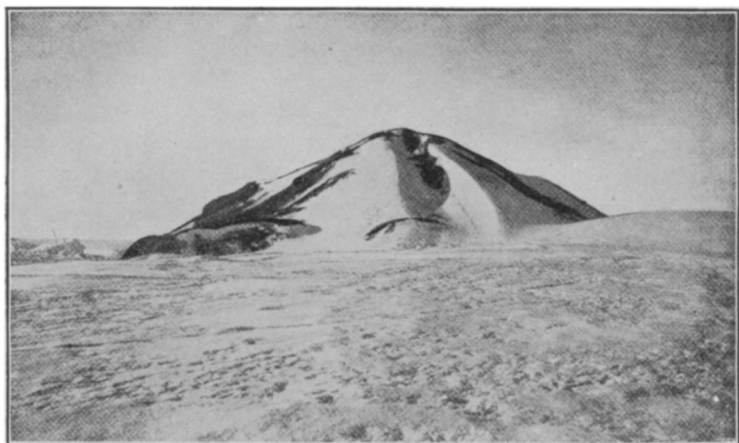
Gaussberg, as Dr. Drygalski named the mountain, rises from the sea edge to a height of 1,200 feet, and is of volcanic formation. The photographer, in taking this picture, stood on the inland ice to the southwest of the mountain, and the picture shows its southern face. Most of the side of the eminence is seen to be covered with snow, though wide streaks of the black lavas are in view. The northern face of the mountain, however, which confronted the sledge parties as they travelled from their ship to the land, showed only little patches of snow, the black block of lava contrasting strongly with the white sea-ice in front of it. Though the mountain was partly covered with snow, it was free from ice, and was the only bit of ice-free land seen by the Expedition.

Five months were spent in the sledging expeditions to the land, the objective points being the mountain and the seaboard, where scientific investigations, extending over weeks at a time, were carried on. It was difficult to reach the mountain, as the distance from the ship was forty-six miles over rough sea-ice. It would have been much easier, after gaining the land, to travel southward over the inland ice that covered it; but the explorers saw no purpose to be gained from such a journey, as they could see from the summit

of Gaussberg "only a far-reaching ice-capped hinterland, and had nothing to expect from the interior more than a long journey over uniform undulating ice, such as they had already seen on the coast."

They were very busy, however, with their scientific studies on the shore and mountain, where they investigated all the phenomena presented. Dr. Philippi studied the Gaussberg lavas. The moraine that was evidence of former ice action on the sides of the mountain was also an object of attention. The scientific results are now being worked out, and no detailed description of the mountain and the coast will be written until they are completed.

The lavas of the mountain contain molten gneisses that had been forced up with them from the bed-rock; and the traces of ice



GAUSSBERG ON KAISER WILHELM II. LAND.

action on Gaussberg show that the surface of the ice-cap formerly stood at a higher level than at present, and that the glacial area was, doubtless, more extensive than it is now. Dr. Drygalski believes this is the vastest glacial area existing at the present time.

The land around the mountain consists of old crystalline rocks. This was only one of many proofs that the party were living and working on the fringe of the south polar continent. The discovery of the coast, which they named Kaiser Wilhelm II. Land, cleared up, for over ten degrees of longitude, the old-contested question regarding the nature and extent of that part of the Antarctic land-mass to the south of the Indian Ocean. There can now be no misunderstanding as to the approximate extent of the continental coast-line for at least half the distance between Knox and Kemp Lands.